



WHO MAINTAINS THE FENCE?

Livestock grazing is authorized on most of the CTNF and may occur adjacent to your property. Neither Idaho State law nor Forest Service regulations require National Forest grazing permittees to build and/or maintain fences to restrict their livestock from your private land. You may, at your own expense, and on your own land, create barriers to limit livestock access onto your private land. If you intend to graze your own livestock on your property, you are responsible to ensure your grazing animals do not trespass onto the National Forest.

HAZARDS NEAR YOUR PROPERTY

There is always the potential for branches, or even entire trees to fall over from time to time. The Forest Service does not manage individual trees that may pose as a hazard to your private property. If you are concerned about individual trees, or any other hazards on Forest land adjacent to your property, please contact your local Forest Service office to discuss how these can be addressed.

TREATING NOXIOUS WEEDS

The Forest Service has an active Noxious Weed Treatment program; and while we coordinate with local Counties, we do not treat noxious weeds on private land. Land owners are responsible for the prevention and treatment of noxious weeds on their property. Many Counties have resources to assist landowners in identifying, preventing and treating noxious weeds.

Contact Information

SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE

1405 Hollipark Drive
Idaho Falls, ID 83401
(208) 557-5900

ASHTON/ISLAND PARK

146 South Highway 20
Ashton, ID 83420
(208) 652-7442

PALISADES

3659 East Ririe Highway
Idaho Falls, ID 83401
(208) 523-1412

TETON BASIN

495 South Main Street
Driggs, ID 83422
(208) 354-2312

DUBOIS

98 North Oakley
Dubois, ID 83423
(208) 374-5422

MONTPELIER

322 North 4th Street
Montpelier, ID 83254
(208) 847-0375

SODA SPRINGS

1410 Hooper Ave
Soda Springs, ID 83276
(208) 547-4356

WESTSIDE

4350 Cliffs Drive
Pocatello, ID 83204
(208) 236-7500

THINGS TO CONSIDER

You may be responsible for costs associated with your access or utility requests and permits.

National Forest management is dynamic. Please contact your local office to verify brochure information.

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Your Home in the Woods

A HOMEOWNER'S GUIDE TO
OWNING PROPERTY ADJACENT
TO THE CARIBOU-TARGHEE
NATIONAL FOREST



THE NATIONAL FOREST AS A NEIGHBOR

Many acres of private land are interspersed within the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. If you own one of these parcels, or are considering buying one, this brochure lets you know what you can expect and when you may need to contact your local Forest Service office for more information.

National Forests are lands open to the public. These lands are, by law, managed by the Forest Service to provide a continuing flow of goods and services, including recreational opportunities, minerals, grazing, timber and wildlife habitat. Those who own property adjacent to the Forest can expect to witness management activities and public uses that reflect this multiple use mandate.

The information contained here addresses the most commonly asked questions concerning private land within the Caribou-Targhee National Forest.



PROPERTY BOUNDARIES

The most valuable advice we can give you is to have a property line survey conducted by an accredited surveyor. The fence you think is on the property line may not be. The site where you'd most like to build your dream home may be partially on the Forest. If existing improvements are found to be on the Forest, or if you inadvertently construct new ones that encroach onto the National Forest, they will have to be removed. Avoid costly mistakes by knowing exactly where your property lines are — **don't rely on existing fences or a non-accredited description** of your property lines.

PROPERTY ACCESS

It is the policy of the CTNF to provide only **one** access to private property. If it is possible to reach your property by crossing neighboring private land, you will need to pursue such access. If your land is completely surrounded by National Forest, you will need a special use permit to authorize you to construct or use an access road, and the Forest Service is required by law to charge a fee for such road usage. Land developers generally need to provide access to the land they subdivide, and in all cases, access possibilities across private land must be exhausted before we can consider access across the Forest. If in doubt, contact your local District Ranger for specific advice on your situation.



WHO MAINTAINS THE ROAD?

Road maintenance may be of great concern to you. Because maintenance standards and responsibilities differ throughout the forest, you need to be aware of what these are in your area. Some roads are maintained by road maintenance associations (groups of landowners who tax themselves or pay a yearly fee), and some roads are maintained by the Forest Service or by the County. The Forest Service maintains roads for multiple use purposes, not for access to private property. We do not plow snow and we might not maintain the roads in your area to a standard that meets your needs. If you need a higher standard road than what exists in an area, please contact your local Forest Service office to see what options may be available to you.

WHO PROVIDES LAW ENFORCEMENT?

The County Sheriff is responsible for protecting residents and personal property. Any illegal activity on your property should be reported to the County Sheriff's Department. Laws involving wildlife and fish resources are enforced by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game or the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. The Forest Service is responsible for enforcing laws regarding Forest resource protection and violations should be reported to your local Forest Service office. Regardless of the agency, officers are responsible for large areas of land and their response time may not be as quick as you would prefer. Please work with them and be patient — they're doing the best they can with limited resources.



WHAT ABOUT FIRE PROTECTION?

Fire is a major concern to rural landowners, and you can take steps to help reduce fire risk on your property and protect your investment. You should be familiar with any set-back requirements each County may have. State forestry agencies can provide you with good advice on how to provide "defensible space" around your improvements. Can a fire truck reach your home? Is the vegetation around your home so thick that defending it would be too risky? How can you cooperate with the Forest Service and adjacent landowners to reduce fuels and fire danger? You can contact Idaho Dept. of Lands for more information.

PROPERTY ACCESS

You may be thinking of building a new home, or updating the services at an existing home. There are some things you need to be aware of about getting utility lines, such as power, telephone and gas, to your property. Access possibilities across adjacent private lands must be exhausted before we will consider access across the Forest. If your land is completely surrounded by National Forest, the affected utility company will need a special use permit to authorize installation of utilities lines to your property. If in doubt, contact your local Forest Service office for specific advice on your situation.



YOUR USE OF ADJACENT FOREST LAND

Your right to use National Forest lands adjacent to your property are the same as any other citizen's—you may use and enjoy the Forest subject to a few restrictions designed to protect the area. You can hike, mountain bike or ride horseback almost anywhere on the Forest but you can't construct roads, trails or gates. Motorized use must not result in resource damage. Some roads and trails are only open seasonally. Maps are available, free of charge, at each Forest Service office showing when roads and trails are open. You can hunt and fish according to regulations set by the Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game or by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. You can cut firewood after first obtaining a permit and you can remove other Forest products subject to the same permitting procedures applicable to all citizens. Cultural resources, such as Indian artifacts, old cabins and old dump sites are protected by law. We suggest that you contact the local Forest Service office to discuss your opportunities and obligations.



MANAGING ACTIVITIES ADJACENT TO YOUR PROPERTY

National Forests are managed for a multitude of uses. Activities that may occur adjacent to your property include: timber harvest, control of insects and weeds, mineral extraction, livestock grazing, wildlife habitat management and various recreation activities. Disposal of small tracts of National Forest land, while not common, may occur. It is possible that exchanges or sales of such land could happen adjacent to your property. Your local Forest Service office can give you an idea on what activities to expect in your area.